

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAA-01 SES-02 SSM-03 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 AID-05 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /089 W
-----085107 232252Z /70

R 231323Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7397
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 06848

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, IS, JO
SUBJECT: ISRAELI-SPONSORED ALTERNATES TO WEST BANK MAYORS

REF: JERUSALEM 2316

BEGIN SUMMARY: EXEC/DIR OF OCCUPIED TERRITORIES OFFICE
STATED FLATLY THAT MUSTAFA DUDIN'S UNION OF VILLAGES
SCHEME ON WEST BANK HAD NO GOJ SUPPORT. HE SAID ATTEMPT
WILL FAIL AS HAVE ALL SIMILAR ONES. GOJ WILL NOT MAKE
PUBLIC DENIAL OF GOJ BACKING PROBABLY IN ORDER NOT TO
DIGNIFY DUDIN, BUT IS ISSUING BEHIND THE SCENES DENIALS
TO INQUIRING WEST BANKERS. END SUMMARY.

1. POLOFF DISCUSSED SUBSTANCE REFTEL AUGUST 22 WITH
SHAWKAT MAHMOUD, EXEC/DIR OF OCCUPIED TERRITORIES OFFICE.
UNION OF VILLAGES SCHEME, MAHMOUD SAID, IS NOT NEW IDEA.
SIMILAR SCHEMES HAVE BEEN TRIED ON THE WEST BANK SEVERAL
TIMES AND HAVE ALWAYS FAILED. IT IS FIRST ATTEMPT BY
MUSTAFA DUDIN HIMSELF, BUT, MAHMOUD SAID, HE, TOO, WILL
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FAIL.

2. MAHMOUD INSISTED THAT DUDIN, WHO MAHMOUD DESCRIBED AS
INTERESTED ONLY IN PERSONAL AGGRANDIZEMENT, HAS HAD
ABSOLUTELY NO ENCOURAGEMENT FROM GOJ. ON THE CONTRARY, IT
IS OBVIOUS TO GOJ THAT IMPETUS FOR SCHEME COMES FROM GOI.
THIS PLAN IS BUT ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO EXTEND ISRAELI IN-

FLUENCE ON WEST BANK.

3. WHEN ASKED WHETHER GOJ PLANNED TO ISSUE PUBLIC DENIAL, MAHMOUD SAID NO, JORDAN PREFERS NOT TO ISSUE PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT SUCH MATTERS. (COMMENT: IMPLICATION WAS THAT GOJ DOES NOT WISH TO DIGNIFY DUDIN SHENANIGANS BY ACCORDING IT STATUS WITH OFFICIAL DENIAL. END COMMENT) HOWEVER, MAHMOUD SAID, VILLAGE UNION SCHEME HAS SUFFICIENTLY WORRIED SOME WEST BANKERS THAT SEVERAL HAVE COME TO MAHMOUD'S OFFICE TO ASK ABOUT GOJ POSITION. IN EVERY CASE, MAHMOUD MAINTAINED, HE HAD CATEGORICALLY DENIED TO THEM ANY GOJ INVOLVEMENT OR SUPPORT. MANY HAD THEN RETURNED HOME AND ISSUED STATEMENTS TO THE EFFECT THAT THEY HAVE "PERSONAL INFORMATION" THAT DUDIN NOT ACTING AT BEHEST OF JORDANIANS. MAHMOUD SAID HE HAD FOUND THIS METHOD OF DENIAL TO WORK BEST. HE ALSO CLAIMED WEST BANK MAYORS UNDERSTOOD GOJ POSITION AND WERE UNWORRIED BY DUDIN ACTIVITIES.

4. COMMENT: MAHMOUD DID NOT ATTEMPT TO HIDE HIS CONTEMPT FOR DUDIN, GIVING US PERSONAL OPINION THAT HE WAS MAN WHO SOUGHT LIMELIGHT BY ANY MEANS. HE SAID MOST WEST BANKERS NOW KNOW NOT TO TRUST HIM, BUT THERE ARE UNFORTUNATELY STILL A FEW TAKEN IN BY HIS HAVING BEEN A JORDANIAN CABINET MINISTER. HE SAID IT WOULDN'T BE LONG BEFORE THEY, TOO, LEARNED THAT DUDIN WAS OUT TO CONFIDENTIAL

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PROMOTE ONLY HIMSELF.SUDDARTH

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Message Attributes

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